

13 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Staff

1. I discussed your Secret, Eyes Only, memorandum, Subject: Possible Suggestion to the Director, with the Director and he supports the project.

2. In determining how best to provide Agency input in accordance with your suggestions, we felt that you should make an approach on behalf of the Director to the Honorable Allen Dulles (who is on the President's investigating committee) and offer the assistance of Agency psychiatric capabilities to Mr. Dulles. In the event he were to indicate that this might not be within the purview of the President's investigating board, then you should suggest assisting him in accordance with the offer already made by Mr. McCone to assist Mr. Dulles generally, and see if you can thereby get access to the necessary information to conduct your study.

3. If this is agreeable to you and if you feel your relationships with Mr. Dulles are sufficiently close to swing the deal, please make the approach on behalf of the Director. If you would prefer me or Mr. McCone to make the approach, please come see me with the proposal.

SIGNED

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

MSC: b/p

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11 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Possible Suggestion to the Director

1. The future safeguarding of senior government officials in our democracy could be assisted by increasing the general body of knowledge of the motives and psychopathology of those bent on destruction. Many theories have been advanced in regard the recent assassination, some political, some social, some economic. The truth, of course, resides with the assassin. If it is established that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin and sole author, then motivation and psychopathology become of even greater interest. In such case, Oswald's death denies opportunity for needed understanding and the record will remain incomplete.

2. It has been demonstrated that psychiatry is capable of formulating concepts of individuals without the benefit of direct consultations, through the study of personal histories and activities and through discussion with family and acquaintances. The more information that is available for study, the greater the validity of findings and the greater the understanding in depth. In the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, there appears to be a wealth of information available with the promise of a rewarding study.

3. It is suggested that the Director might be interested in these observations and in exploring the possibility of quietly contributing to the understanding of recent events.

As a separate document, such a study might add to the existing knowledge of defectors as obtained from psychiatric examinations routinely required over the years and might demonstrate the desirability of requiring similar examinations of those individuals who redefect back to the United States.

JOHN R. TIETJEN, M.D.  
Chief, Medical Staff

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